



COMMANDING OFFICER
USS OSCAR AUSTIN (DDG 79)

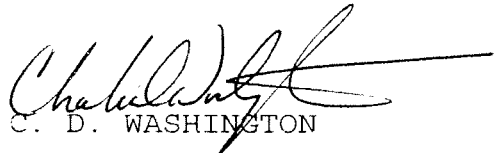
Crewmembers and Spouses,

I would like to thank you all for the support and sacrifices you make every day in support of our sailors.

Through the ongoing conflicts and long deployments, your Sailors have counted on you for love and support, and our nation has benefited from the sacrifices we, the NAVY family has made. Too frequently, the sacrifices and dedication of the Navy spouse goes unnoticed and unappreciated. They have kept the flags waiving, banners flying, and candles burning on the home front as a reminder of our deployed surface force.

As we celebrate military spouse appreciation day, my wife Melissa and I extend a heartfelt thanks to all our Navy families and for your invaluable contribution to the Nation and countless local communities. The daily sacrifice and unyielding strength of our surface spouses makes it possible for each of us to do our jobs and to do them well.

Take time today to honor your spouse's service and the role they play in your success. Although today is a day set aside to honor our spouses, let's make sure we continue to honor them not just today, but every day.


C. D. WASHINGTON